



Completing SR 167: Move freight quickly, safely and efficiently

Strong economies are built on sound transportation systems that move goods efficiently and provide access to businesses and jobs. State Route 167 is a critical component in the Puget Sound region's highway system, and completing the highway to Tacoma will provide a key link for moving freight as well as commuters and travelers.

What will the SR 167 extension look like?

To complete SR 167, engineers are designing an extension from the highway's current end at SR 161 in Puyallup to Interstate 5 in Tacoma, with a connection to SR 509 near the Port of Tacoma. The new six-mile highway extension will provide truck drivers and freight companies with faster, safer route options.



How does extending SR 167 help move freight?

Trucking freight throughout Washington and beyond relies heavily on interstate routes I-5, I-405 and I-90. Completing SR 167 will link these corridors more cohesively, providing faster, safer alternatives to surface street connections.

Locally, extending SR 167 unites the region's distribution and storage facilities, located in the Kent and Puyallup valleys, with the Port of Tacoma, one of North America's largest container ports. Each year, truck traffic increases as the Port, a state economic engine, imports and exports billions of dollars of goods and commodities.

Other congestion relief projects along SR 167 will help move freight through the corridor, providing a more efficient route for the growing number of trucks, while improving air quality, regional mobility and safety for drivers.

How does freight mobility affect the economy?

Moving freight efficiently is crucial for a strong economy. It creates jobs, provides essential goods to businesses and contributes to our quality of life by supplying the products we need and want. When traffic congestion delays trucks, companies and consumers pay more for those products.

- **Jobs:** Almost one in three Washington jobs is related to international trade. More than 43,000 jobs in Pierce County are related to Port of Tacoma activity, and each year, thousands more jobs are created.
- **Local goods:** Regional farmers and manufacturers rely on an efficient delivery system to ship products to customers. Consumers nationwide rely on such goods as cars, sports equipment, shoes and furniture that come through the Port of Tacoma. Most of our food, groceries, clothes and medical supplies are sorted and stored in Kent and Puyallup Valley distribution centers before they arrive in grocery stores, shopping malls and medical facilities throughout the region.

How does extending SR 167 accommodate future growth in the valley?

South King County and east Pierce County are two of the state's fastest-growing residential and commercial areas. Many valley communities served by SR 167 have seen growth

in manufacturing and industrial centers. In addition to other congestion relief projects on the SR 167 corridor—including pilot High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes, extended carpool/transit lanes and improved interchanges—the extension will help link key highways to keep these expanding freight volumes moving.

How is the SR 167 extension funded?

Money for current work comes from the 5-cent gas tax passed in 2003 and the Transportation Partnership Account the Legislature passed in 2005. The project team is using the allocated \$133 million to advance roadway design and buy property so that building can begin when project construction is funded.

The Regional Transportation Investment District, governed by elected officials from King, Pierce and Snohomish counties,

plans to include extending SR 167 on its list of projects proposed for a November 2007 funding ballot measure. The ballot measure would pay for additional property and construction.

When will you build it?

Construction of the highway is likely to be staged as money becomes available.

How can I find out more information about extending SR 167?

Contact our project staff directly or visit our Web site, which contains maps, links, notices about upcoming public events and more detailed information about the project:

www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR167/TacomaToEdgewood.

Washington Freight Facts



Washington State
Department of Transportation

- More than 90 percent of manufacturers and 60 percent of other industries located in the Kent valley use SR 167 to move their goods and commodities.
- On an average day, between 18,000 and 22,000 trucks haul freight northbound on I-5 to the Seattle area.
- From 1998 to 2020, freight volumes in Washington are projected to increase by 80 percent.
- Washington is a gateway state that links the Asian market to the U.S. economy and serves as a vital link to Canada and Alaska.
- Washington makes up 2 percent of the U.S. population, but state ports handle 8 percent of the nation's exports and 6 percent of the imports.

For more information

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